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"BEVERWYCK".

· WM PATERSON VAN RENSSELAER HOUSE ·

· RENSSELAER · NEW YORK ·

Rensselaer Co.

· H.A.B.S. · 5A · 10 ·

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"BEVERWYCK"
WM.Paterson VAN RENSSELAER HOUSE
RENSSELAER, N. Y.

Stephen Van Rensselaer, the so called "last of the patroons", on his death divided the Manor of Rensselaerwyck between his eldest son, Stephen and his youngest son, Wm.Paterson Van Rensselaer; the former inheriting several thousand acres on the west side of the Hudson and the latter almost an equal amount of land on the east side.

Wm.Paterson Van Rensselaer traveled extensively in Europe and on his return about 1838 he built the house now known as "Beverwyck", completing it in 1839 or 1840. He employed an Italian architect and a number of Italian craftsmen. The house is, therefore, unique in the district as in general design as well as in detail it shows the Italian influence.

Shortly after the house was finished, the rent wars began and these troubles so taxed the owner that he retired to another house which he built on Long Island and left his agents to settle the troubles with his tenants.

About 1850 Paul Forbes of Boston passed up the River on a visit to Albany, saw the house and bought it. His family occupied it for a number of years and it has come to be familiarly known as the "Forbes Manor". For about twenty-five years it was tenantless and allowed to deteriorate, until in 1912 it was bought by the Roman Catholic Order of St. Francis and is now a training school and monastery.

At the time that it was built or shortly after a number of the first floor ceilings were decorated in fresco; of these two remain, one of them an interesting example of perspective decoration.

Hanns Weber,
Author

Revised 1936, H.C.F.